

Lady. "If there had been tapes," she crowed, "I would have been on them!"

# TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. DRINAN, SJ

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on February 1, I went to the funeral mass for Robert F. Drinan, SJ. Rarely have I been so moved at such a solemn occasion. This was a joyous celebration of a wonderful man's life.

I knew Bob Drinan before he was a Member of Congress and was referred to as the "conscience of the Congress." I was a young college student when he recruited me to go to Boston College Law School. To make it better, he even offered a scholarship, and as a student with absolutely no money, this was most appealing. I finally called Father Drinan and told him I was going to Georgetown Law School because I especially wanted to be in Washington. He chuckled and said he was giving me absolution, insofar as it was a Jesuit institution.

Throughout the more than 40 years since then, he and I talked often and had some of the most wonderful visits. His interests in life, the United States, the Jesuit mission, and his friends never faded. The last time we saw each other was when I gave a speech in December at the Georgetown Law School, and he came by to hug and greet both Marcelle and me.

I will not try to repeat all of the wonderful things said about him, but I do ask unanimous consent that a tribute to him by Colman McCarthy be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FATHER DRINAN, MODEL OF MORAL TENACITY  
(By Colman McCarthy)

If you've ever wondered whether God laughs, think back to 1980, when the Rev. Robert Drinan was ordered by Pope John Paul II to get out of politics and leave Congress. The Jesuit priest, who died on Sunday, was finishing his fifth term representing a suburban Boston district that included Cambridge and Brookline. The pope had been hearing from rankled conservative American Catholics—the Pat Buchanan, William F. Buckley Jr., William Bennett wing of the church—that Father Drinan, a purebred Democrat, was a dangerous liberal. His voting record on abortion was seen as too pro-choice.

Father Drinan's presence in the House of Representatives had been sanctioned by the previous pope, Paul VI, as well as by the U.S. episcopate, the cardinal of Boston, his own Jesuit superiors and emphatically by the voters in his district.

No matter.

John Paul, knowing that Jesuits take a vow of loyalty to popes, had his way. And who replaced the dangerously liberal Father Drinan? The more dangerously liberal Barney Frank—as ardent an advocate for abortion rights and as he was for gay rights. If there is a God, the Frank-for-Drinan trade surely had Him laughing at the Vatican's expense.

From Congress, Bob Drinan went a few blocks to Georgetown University Law Center.

It was a natural transition, from practicing the politics of peace and justice to teaching it. His classes on human rights law, constitutional law and legal ethics were routinely oversubscribed. Though I had met him before his days in Congress, when he served as dean of Boston College Law School, it was at Georgetown Law that our friendship grew. My classes there for the past 20 years have attracted the same kind of students that his did—future public-interest lawyers, poverty lawyers, human-rights lawyers, and, in good years, a future Jack Olender or William Kunstler.

After my Tuesday afternoon class, I would often go by Bob Drinan's fourth-floor office to get energized. I saw him as a towering moral giant, a man of faith whose practice of Christianity put him in the company of all my Jesuit heroes—Daniel Berrigan, Horace McKenna, Teilhard de Chardin, John Dear, Francis Xavier, the martyred Jesuits of El Salvador and the priests who taught me in college. In his office, ferociously unkempt and as tight as a monk's cell, our conversation ranged from politics to law to the morning's front pages. He was as knowledgeable about the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 as he was about the many allegations of international lawbreaking by the current Bush administration. Bob Drinan had mastered the art of being professionally angry but personally gentle.

As a priest, he was a pastor-at-large. He was at the altar at journalist Mary McGrory's funeral Mass. He celebrated the Nuptial Mass at the marriage of Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and his wife, Lisa. And always, there were plenty of baptisms. As a writer, he produced a steady flow of books on human rights, poverty and social justice. He saved his most fiery writing for the National Catholic Reporter, the progressive weekly to which he contributed a regular column. His final one appeared on Dec. 15, a piece about the 26th anniversary of the martyrdom in El Salvador of Maryknoll Sister Ita Ford.

The column began: "In the 1980s I gave a lecture at Jesuit Regis High School in New York City, where the students are all on scholarship. I spoke about the war being waged by the Reagan administration against the alleged communists of El Salvador."

"In the discussion period, three students took issue with my remarks, making it clear that they and their families agreed with the U.S. policy of assisting the Salvadoran government. The atmosphere was almost hostile until one student stood and related that his aunt, Maryknoll Sister Ita Ford, had been murdered by agents of the government of El Salvador. I have seldom if ever witnessed such an abrupt change in the atmosphere of a meeting."

One of my students at Georgetown Law last semester was also one of Father Drinan's: Chris Neumeyer, a former high school teacher from California. His father, Norris Neumeyer, was in town earlier this month and wanted to meet his hero, Father Drinan. The two lucked out and found the priest in his office. Yesterday, Norris Neumeyer, after learning of the priest's death, e-mailed his son and recalled asking if Father Drinan knew his often-jailed fellow Jesuit Daniel Berrigan and his brother Philip. He did. The difference between himself and the Berrigans, Father Drinan believed, was that they took action outside the system while he took action inside.

Papal meddling aside, it was enduring action.

# TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA BECKER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is constantly made a better place by

some of the extraordinary people who come there and add to the talents of our State.

One such person is Claudia Becker. She has restored the Big Picture Theater in Waitsfield along with her husband Eugene Jarecki. The theater has become a center for the people of the Mad River Valley, and Claudia has shown a sense of conscience in films she has shown at Big Picture.

Marcelle and I have been privileged to know Claudia for years and her husband Eugene for years before that. Marcelle, as an acting justice of the peace, even performed their marriage. We have enjoyed watching their home grow in Vermont, as well as the addition of two of the most beautiful children anyone could wish for.

Recently, Seven Days in Vermont wrote an article about Claudia and what she has done with her film festival. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"BIG" DEAL—FILM FEST FOUNDER CLAUDIA  
BECKER GETS THE PICTURE  
(By Candice White)

On a recent sunny afternoon, several cars, many with ski racks, pulled into a large dirt parking lot at the corner of Route 100 and Carroll Road in Waitsfield. Children pulled off brightly colored ski hats and unzipped puffy jackets as they led their parents through sturdy wood doors. Above, bold red and black letters inscribed on a round, Art Deco-style clock identified the building as the Big Picture Theater.

Inside, the petite proprietor, Claudia Becker, was hustling from one task to another. She swept the wooden floor of the large, windowed cafe-lounge, dusted the player piano, crossed to the carpeted hallway to help an employee count a cash drawer, and answered both the theater phone and the personal cell phone hooked to her corduroys.

A young man and his blonde girlfriend—friends visiting from Becker's native Germany—appeared and greeted her. After a quick exchange of words in German, the man walked behind the bar to the kitchen area and began polishing silver, while his girlfriend took over the broom. Becker darted back to the concessions area and, with a warm smile, greeted the line of customers arriving for a 4 p.m. matinee of Charlotte's Web.

The past year has been a whirlwind for Becker, 39, in her new role as owner of the Big Picture Theater. When she bought and renovated the former Eclipse Theater last spring, she already had a full plate: two children under the age of 6, a marriage to filmmaker Eugene Jarecki (The Trials of Henry Kissinger, Why We Fight), and an acclaimed film fest. Lately, Becker's velocity has increased as she gears up for the fourth annual Mountaintop Film Festival. The human-rights-based marathon runs at the theater starting this Wednesday, January 10, through Sunday, January 14.

The fest presents 10 documentary films and three dramas, all addressing issues of national and international concern, from the toll of the Iraq war to Bombay's child sex trade to civil disobedience during the Vietnam War. It showcases personalities, too. The opening night gala features a reception with filmmaker Henrietta Mantel before the showing of her film on Ralph Nader, An Unreasonable Man. A Q&A with Nader himself

via lcam follows. Olympia Dukakis, who stars in the drama *Day on Fire*, is expected to make an appearance at one of her two film screenings (Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). Filmmakers James Longley (*Iraq in Fragments*), Milena Kaneva (*Total Denial*), and Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Movie*) are all scheduled to appear. And Jarecki, whose 2005 doc *Why We Fight* won a grand jury prize at Sundance, will teach a three-hour media lab on Sunday at 1 p.m. Three nights of live music and a Friday night community potluck dinner round out the five days of brainy cinema.

Mountaintop grew out of a serendipitous meeting five years ago between Becker and Kimberly Ead, now festival manager. At the time, Becker was a teacher—she holds a master's degree in special education from the University of Munich—and an informal consultant to her husband's filmmaking. But she was looking for new pursuits that would express her "deep sense of political concern." Ead, who was working on antiwar issues at Burlington's Peace and Justice Center, offered just that. "Claudia and I really connected," Ead remembers. "We combined her contacts in the film industry and my work as an activist to create the festival."

Both women have a strong commitment to educating youth about film and filmmaking, and it shows in the festival. This year, students from area high schools, including Harwood Union, Mt. Mansfield, Burlington and Vergennes, will be bussed in for special screenings. "I'd like to add more educational components to the theater," Becker says, looking to the future, "like a media literacy program and a documentary filmmaking program."

And the future looks bright, judging by the success of the festival so far. Becker points to an increase in "the level of recognition. . . and in the turnout. The festival has established itself as one of the premier film festivals in Vermont."

One positive change is that the fest is no longer a renter—this is the first year Becker has owned its venue. After the previous owners shut their doors, Waitsfield locals kept talking about the need for a community space. Becker decided she needed to buy the theater and make it a viable epicenter of the Mad River Valley. Vowing to spend every last dime she had, she purchased the building, hired a construction crew, and began a major renovation.

In May 2006, Becker re-opened the theater and unveiled the transformed space: an open-kitchen cafe with a full bar, old-fashioned soda fountain, and Internet lounge; a newly renovated smaller theater with flexible seating, to be used for both movie showings and community events; and a largely untouched traditional movie theater.

Becker's vision for the aptly named Big Picture was a "local gathering place with a global dimension," she says. "And I wanted the name to reflect my personal desire for teaching, discourse and thought exchange."

Her political beliefs aren't just talk. Becker demonstrates her commitment to the "local" by letting organizations rent the space at a price that often just covers her costs. To accommodate area events, she formed a partnership with the nonprofit Open Hearth Community Center, which "wouldn't have a home without Claudia," says Open Hearth program manager Kirstin Reilly. "She has worked with the board to create a space that is useful for the community's needs."

Becker has brought an eclectic mix of first-run and documentary films, thought-provoking discussions, music, comedy and art exhibits to Big Picture. Last fall, New Hampshire comedian Cindy Pierce drew a huge crowd for her show on the mysteries of

women's sexuality. Soon after, the theater filled up again for a discussion of international security issues with former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter.

Becker says she's still working on balancing her political passions with the need to turn a profit. "It has been a real learning experience to find what works and what doesn't," she admits. "Live music continues to be a challenge. But when we bring in a political speaker, the place is packed."

Becker seems to have found a management style that suits her: a nonhierarchical organization that still allows her to jump in and be the boss when needed. And when friends and family visit, they're put to work. Jarecki is often seen pouring beers behind the bar. The couple's daughter Anna has baked cookies to sell in the cafe.

"When I was hiring, I was very careful to find people who had a positive attitude and a predisposition for multitasking," Becker says. Her core team is composed of women: Ead; theater manager Jo-Anne Billings; and chef Amanda Astheimer, who aims to deliver on Becker's international culinary vision. Several men work as projectionists and concessions staff.

All hands will be on deck during this week's film festival. "I am looking forward to it all being over, just so I can take a breath," Becker says.

But she also recognizes that a busy theater is the best reward. Becker defines success as "seeing people having a great time; working with and within the community; feeling that I am doing something that is greater than myself." If she can bring new issues and ideas to filmgoers' attention, so much the better.

"I want to open people's minds and inspire discourse," Becker says. "I don't believe I can have an impact on what people do with the information, but I feel it is important to get it out there." ●

#### TRIBUTE TO GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to inform my colleagues that for the second consecutive year, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters of Waterbury, VT, has been named the top overall firm on Corporate Responsibility Officers Magazine's annual list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens. This is the first time any company has been awarded this prestigious title 2 years in a row.

Green Mountain Coffee's award is rooted in the leading role the company plays in the specialty coffee and fair trade industries. By constantly striving to lead the company to exemplary corporate citizenship, Bob Stiller, Green Mountain Coffee's president and CEO, has molded the company into a socially responsible and environmentally conscious business that makes Vermonters proud.

I congratulate Bob and all of the employees at Green Mountain Coffee for this well-deserved recognition. Mr. President, they make great coffee, they do business well, and they do great business—and these accomplishments, I believe, are related. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the following article from the *Rutland Herald* be printed in the *RECORD* so that all Senators can read about the success and admirable business practices of this visionary company.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *Rutland Herald*, Feb. 15, 2007]

#### VT. COMPANY NAMED TOP CORPORATE CITIZEN

For the second year in a row, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. has been ranked No. 1 on the list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens, published by CRO magazine.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Green Mountain Coffee Roasters has made the list. It is the only time a company has been awarded the top spot for 2 years running, and it is the only company other than IBM that has been ranked first twice.

The Waterbury company shares honors this year with Micro Devices, IBM, The Timberland Company and Starbucks Corp.

Now in its eighth year, the 100 Best Corporate Citizens list was developed by Business Ethics magazine, which became CRO, an organization for Corporate Responsibility Officers.

The list is drawn from more than 1,100 of the largest U.S. publicly held companies and identifies those that excel at serving a variety of stakeholders. Firms are ranked on performance in eight categories: shareholders, governance, community, diversity, employees, environment, human rights and product.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters offers a comprehensive selection of double-certified, Fair Trade organic coffee. Fair Trade provides coffee growers a fair price and a guaranteed minimum floor price for their crops. In 2006, the company introduced a line of eco-friendly paper cups that use a corn product, instead of petroleum-based products, to make them waterproof.

Robert Stiller, president and CEO of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, said: "It's particularly rewarding to see how our efforts are improving people's lives and contributing to positive change in the world."

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters sells more than 100 specialty coffees, including Fair Trade Certified and organic coffees under the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and Newman's Own Organics brands.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 342. To designate the United States courthouse located at 555 Independence Street in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 547. To facilitate the development of markets for biofuels and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel through research and development and data collection; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.